

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants amend claims 1 and 4. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Savage during the personal interview conducted on May 15, 2007. The Applicants' separate record of the substance of that personal interview is contained in the following remarks.

I. Claim Objections

During the personal interview conducted on May 15, 2007 with Examiner Savage, the Examiner objected to the word "obtainable" in instant claims 1 and 4. Applicants hereby amend claims 1 and 4 to recite "obtained" in order to overcome that objection.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are earnestly solicited.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 10309567 in view of Hatano and further in view of Allen. Applicants amend claims 1 and 4, and respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed in the personal interview conducted with Examiner Savage on May 15, 2007, the features of instant claims 1 and 4 are simply not found in, nor would they have been obvious over, the combination of references cited by the Office Action. In particular, for example, instant claim 1 recites "characterized by an aqueous suspension containing activated carbon fine particles having an average particle size of 0.1 to 10 μm obtained by wet milling of the particles of the activated carbon." In other words, milling the activated carbon in situ results in an aqueous suspension containing activated carbon fine particles.

In contrast, Kurita does not address the problems relating to secondary aggregation of pulverized active carbon in situ; Hatano discusses activated clay particles and is thus (1) directed toward an inorganic substance, and (2) not directed toward the treatment of drinking water in situ. Finally, Allen is altogether non-analogous and in that it discloses a melt blown web for cleaning up oil spills. As stated by Examiner Savage during the personal interview conducted on May 15, 2007, the foregoing combination of references do not obtain the claimed features, nor would it have been obvious to look from any one of them to the others in order to obtain the claimed features because (1) they do not obtain the claimed features; (2) Allen is altogether non-analogous art.

For at least the foregoing reasons, instant claims 1-8 would not have been obvious over JP 10309567 in view of Hatano, further in view of Allen. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are earnestly solicited.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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